

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/830,232
Reply to Office Action dated January 25, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 9-16 have been added and are now pending. Applicant thanks Examiner for allowing claims 3 and 4. Claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 9 and 10. New claims 11-14 depend from new claims 9 and 10. Support for these claims can be found, e.g., from canceled claims 5 and 6. Support for new claims 15 and 16 can be found, e.g., from canceled claims 1, 3, and 4. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request examination and allowance of claims 9-16.

Claim Objections

Claims 3 and 4 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 9 and 10. Applicants respectfully request allowance of new claims 9 and 10.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, and 5-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fukumasa et al.* (U.S. 6,058,138, hereinafter "Fukumasa") in view of *Khayrallah et al.* (U.S. 6,574,293, hereinafter "Khayrallah"). Claims 1, 2, and 5-8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to these claims moot. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of this rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

New Claims

Claims 9-16 have been newly added to this application. Claims 9 and 10 correspond to claims 3 and 4, previously held allowable by the Examiner. Claims 11-14 depend from new claims 9 and 10. Therefore, Applicant asserts that new claims 11-14 are allowable for at least the same reasons as new claims 9 and 10. New method claims 15 and 16 incorporate the limitations of canceled claims 3 and 4, respectively. Therefore, it is submitted that new claims

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/830,232
Reply to Office Action dated January 25, 2005

15 and 16 are allowable for at least the same reasons as new claims 9 and 10. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of new claims 9-16.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: 6/27/05



Gregory A. Sebald
Reg. No. 33,280

GAS/JKS/jt